श्री नरेश यादव: महोदय, केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से फरक्का डैम योजना प्रस्तावित है और इसके लिए किसानों को उनकी भूमि के मुआवज़े का भुगतान भी हो गया है। स्थायी निदान के लिए अगर फरक्का डैम योजना चालू कर दी जाए केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा तो बहुत बड़ा हल बाढ़ समस्या का हो सकता है बिहार के लिए। इसी की साथ में जलाहीन अंसारी जी के साथ अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

Undue delay in releasing quota for medical students of North-Eastern region

DR. B.B. DUTTA (Nominated): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a serious malady that seems to afflict our Union Health Ministry. Because of that, it is also affecting the fate of a good number of students who have been selected for admission into various medical colleges.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, as you are aware, in our country the States which have not got a medical institution of their own within their jurisdiction are allotted a certain number of seats elsewhere every year by a quota system and it is the Union Health Ministry which releases the quota. But it has become a disease that every year the release of the quota is delayed, inordinately delayed. This year, till the last Friday, when I came back from my place, till then, they had not got the quota. The students have appeared for tests and interviews. They have been selected. They have also been told that if they are going in for the medical line, they have to abandon the engineering and other lines and they cannot apply for the other lines, If they have been selected for the other lines then they have to forego their chance. When ultimately the quota is released, some of the students from those backward, sensitive, areas go to the principal of the medical institution concerned who says, "You are too late to report to the institution. The classes have started. You cannot cope with it. So go back." In this way, every year, some seats get lost. Already the seats these States get are much less than the requirement. There is a lot of frustration, quarrel, over seat allotment. On top of all that, this delay is creating a lot of problems. Another thing is, corruption creeps in. When these institutions do not fill the seats from the quota, what do they do? They sell the seats to other people. They deny seats to the rightful candidates on the plea that they have come late and sell the seats to some other people.

So, Mr. Vice-Chairman, my earnest appeal is this. Let a communication from this House go to the Union Health Ministry to the effect that the quota for this year should be promptly released tomorrow itself and henceforth, the delay should not recur. Ths delay is avoidable. It is a matter of simple administration. They can do it very well in time. It should not recur.

Secondly, they should seriously consider increasing the number of seats for these backward States.

We should not play with the career of our boys and girls. We have already got a lot of problems in those areas. So, kindly take note of this point, Mr. Vice-Chairman.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Mr Vice-Chairman, while associating myself with what Dr. Dutta has said, I want to say something. Fifty per cent of the seats are reserved for all-India students. There is a fraud, as Mr. Dutta has rightly pointed out and this fraud is there in my State also. Some people are kept on the waiting list. If the Central students do not come, these seats should go to those students. These students in combination contribute something. But the people in Delhi delay the allocation of seats. I think there should be some investigation into the inordinate delay so much so that the deserving students are not deprived of the seats. I very much agree with my hon. colleague. I demand that an inquiry should be conducted as to why there is such an inordinate delay of three to four months.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Minister, would you like to respond? If you are interested, you may respond.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): Sir, I share the

concern of the hon. Members. We will look into the matter and definitely we will try our best to see that the seats are given well in time.

Surplus foodgrains situation

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान (नाम-निर्देशित): श्रीमन्, देश में इस वक्त यह कहा गया है कि अनाज काफी ज्यादा है तथा सरकार के पास खरीदने के लिए पैसा नहीं और रखने के लिए जगह नहीं। कुछ लोगों के लिए यह अच्छी बात हो सकती है। लेकिन जो पैदा करने वाला किसान है उसके लिए यह बहुत चिंता का विषय है कि जो अनाज, जो उपज पैदा की गई है कि उसका कोई खरीदार नहीं, उसको रखने के लिए कोई जगह नहीं, तो वह करेगा क्या? उसको बेचने के लिए किसी को एलाउ नहीं किया जाता, बाहर बेचने की उसको इजाजत नहीं, बाहर से ग्राहक आने दिया जाए, उसके लिए उसको इजाजत नहीं, तो यह जो विषय है इसके बारे में यह स्पष्ट होता है कि सरकार पैदा करने के लिए उत्साहित करने के बजाय कम पैदा हो, इस स्थिति में सोच रही है। तो यह देश के लिए गंभीर विषय है। मैं आपसे यह कहता हूं कि अगर किसान अनाज पैदा करने के बजाय कुछ और चीज पैदा करना चाहे, जैसे वह चारा भी पैदा करना चाहे, तो इनडायरेक्टली उसको चारा पैदा करने से रोका जाता है। चारे से वह क्या करेगा? वह दूध पैदा करेगा, दूध का उसको प्रोसस करने की इजाजत नहीं लाइसेंस के बिना और अगर पैदा करता भी है तो बाहर भेजने की इजाजत नहीं, मंडी में बेचने की इजाजत नहीं, तो वह क्या करेगा? इस प्रकार उसको चारा तक पैदा करने की इजाजत नहीं। ऐसे ही अगर वह अनाज के बजाय वह गन्ना पैदा करना चाहता है, क्योंकि देश को चीनी की जरूरत है। तो वह गन्ना पैदा नहीं कर सकता, क्योंकि वह गन्ने को प्रोसस नहीं कर सकता, उसका पक्का माल करके चीनी बनाकर नहीं रख सकता। तो वास्तव में यह जो इस वक्त का सिस्टम है कि किसान जो पैदा करना चाहता है, उसको रोक-रोककर रखा जाए, यह देश के लिए घातक है, हानिकारक है। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार को और देश को तथा इस सदन को यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस वक्त इस तरह की स्थिति देश के हित में नहीं है। किसान के पैदा करने में जो रुकावटें हैं, वह नहीं होनी चाहिए। इस वक्त जो अनाज पैदा करता है, जब अनाज ज्यादा है, तो वह जहां चाहे उसको खुली मंडी में बेचने की छूट होनी चाहिए। यह नहीं होना चाहिए अगर ज्यादा पैदा हो गया, तो किसान तो मारा गया, उसको बेचने नहीं दिया जाता, ग्राहक को आने नहीं दिया जाता और अगर कम पैदा हुआ तो यह कहकर उससे छीन लिया जाता है, क्योंकि कम है। तो यह जो स्थिति है वह नहीं होनी चाहिए। अगर किसान ज्यादा पैदा करता है वह तब भी मारा जाता है और अगर कम पैदा होता है तो तब भी मारा जाता है। इस स्थिति से किसान को निकालना चाहिए। किसान को खुलेआम जहां चाहे बेचने की छूट होनी चाहिए या कहीं बाहर दुनिया की मंडी में भी भेजने की छूट होनी चाहिए और वह जो प्रोसस करना चाहे उसको पूरे तौर पर खुले आम पैदा की हुई चीज से खुलेआम पक्का माल बनाने की इजाजत हो ताकि उसका उत्साह बढ़े और प्रोडेक्शन भी बढ़ सके। धन्यवाद।

Inconveniences faced by poor patients due to under-utilisation of discretionary funds

SHRI DAVID LEDGER (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, my hon. friend, Dr. B.B. Dutta, has just mentioned about a malady which is afflicting the Union Health Ministry. I will raise here another malady of a more serious nature, which is afflicting the Health Ministry. A discretionary fund of Rs. 30,00,000/- is earmarked every year by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for providing financial assistance to poor patients who cannot pay for their treatment, especially for specialised treatment for serious ailments like heart ailments which need open-heart surgery, etc. The procedure is that the patient has to make an application to the Ministry. The application has to be accompanied by an estimated cost which has to be sent by the hospital concerned.

The Ministry considers the application and goes through the documents that are sent by the hospital and sends the cheque directly to the hospital. But, once the patient is released from the hospital, he is not entitled to get the money. What is surprising is that approximately 5,000 applications from the patients coming from various parts of the country are pending with the Ministry as on date. That is my information. I fail to understand the reason for this. Sir, all sorts of queries are made. The patients are asked to submit all kinds of